MARVEL COMICS
CO-STARRING THE PUNISHER!
AND INTRODUCING PYRE!
VENOM
FUNERAL PYRE
PART TWO OF THREE
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STAN LEE PRESENTS

VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE

PART TWO: HIGH TENSION

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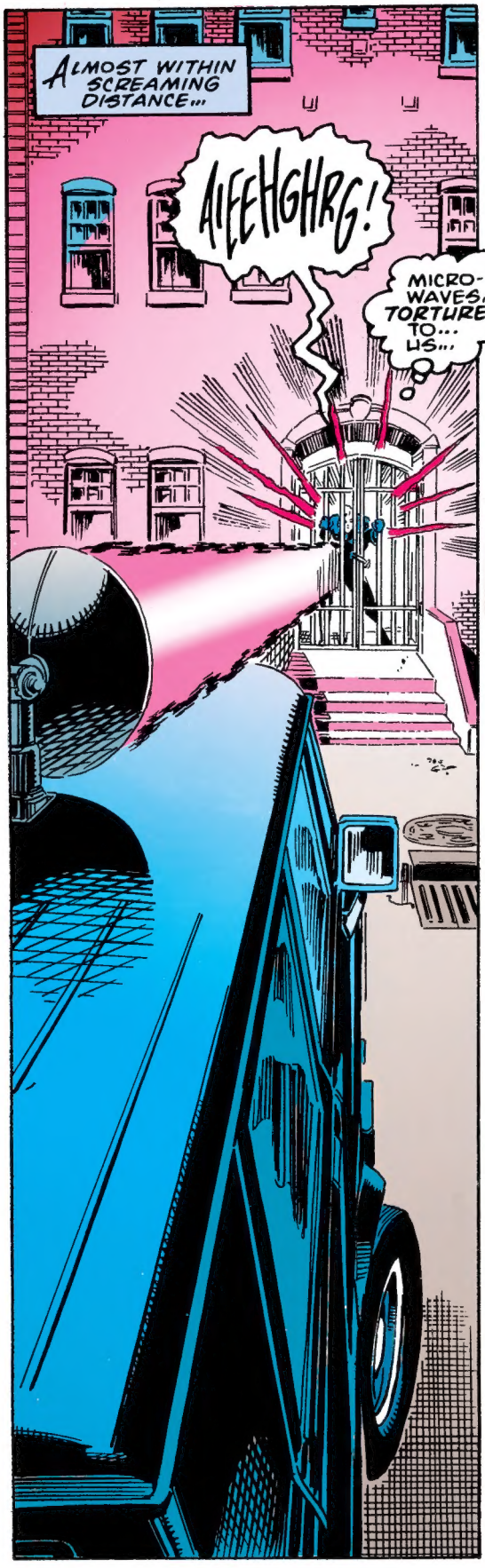
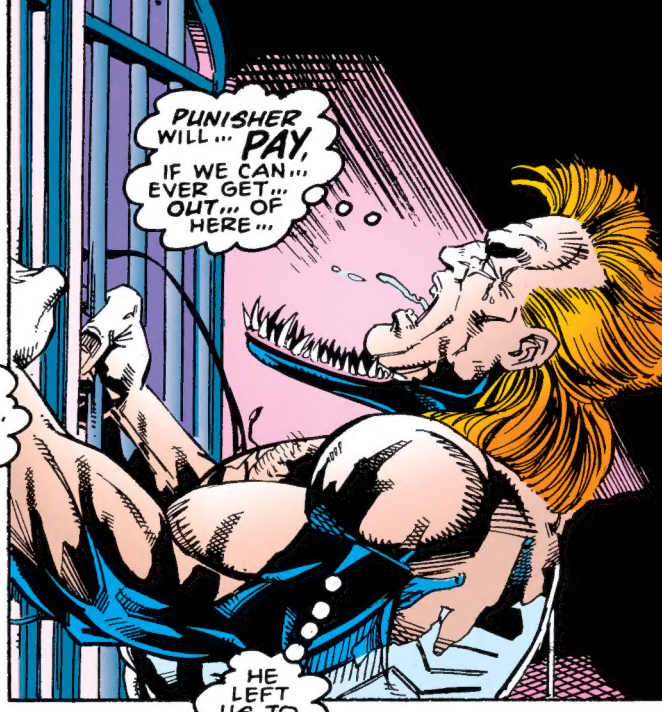
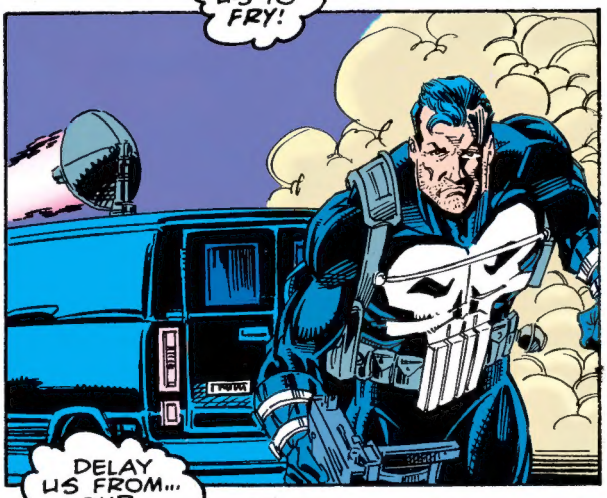
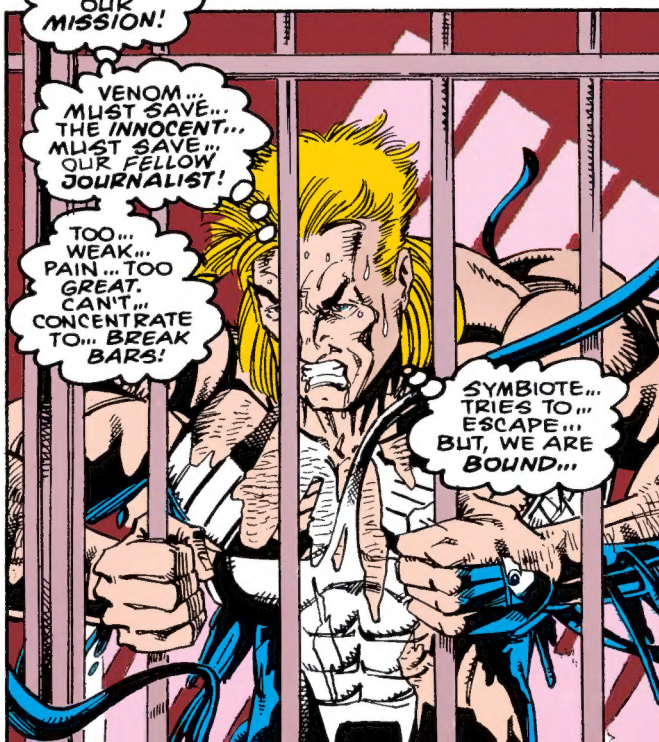
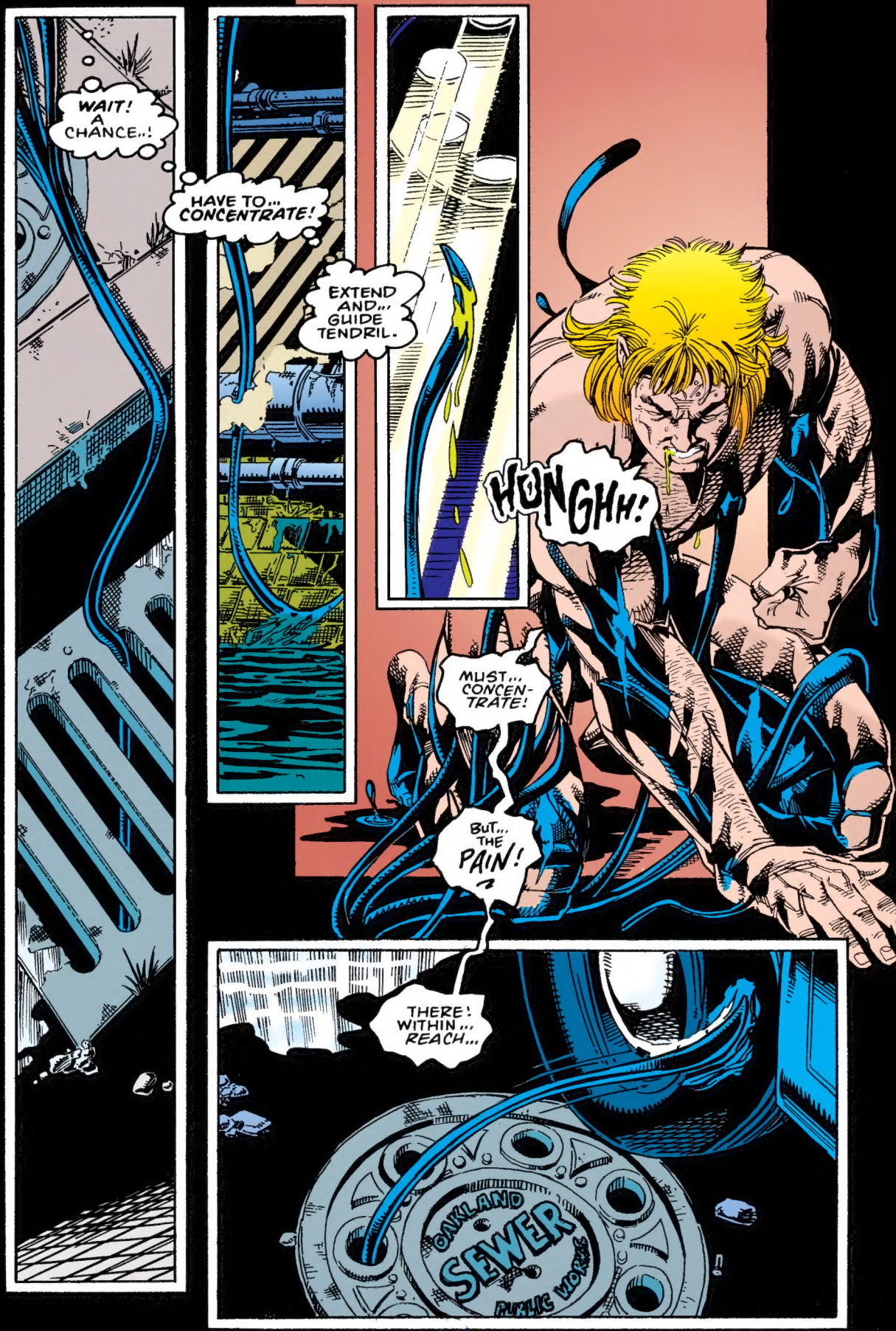
THERE, GRAY -- THERE'RE YOUR TARGETS! NAIL 'EM OR WE DEAD YOU!
YOU WANT TO BE A JADOO, YOU GOTTA GET BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS AND LEARN TA FOLLOW ORDERS.
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE! I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!
THIS WHOLE AREA O' TOWN IS AT WAR TONIGHT! AT LEAST FOUR GANGS ON THE WARPATH!
THE KID I SAVED LAST NIGHT WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE SURE I WAS RESCUED BEFORE NOW!
WHERE THE !@#$%! IS MY RESCUE?


ALMOST WITHIN SCREAMING DISTANCE...
AIEEHGHRG!
MICRO-WAVES... TORTURE TO... US...

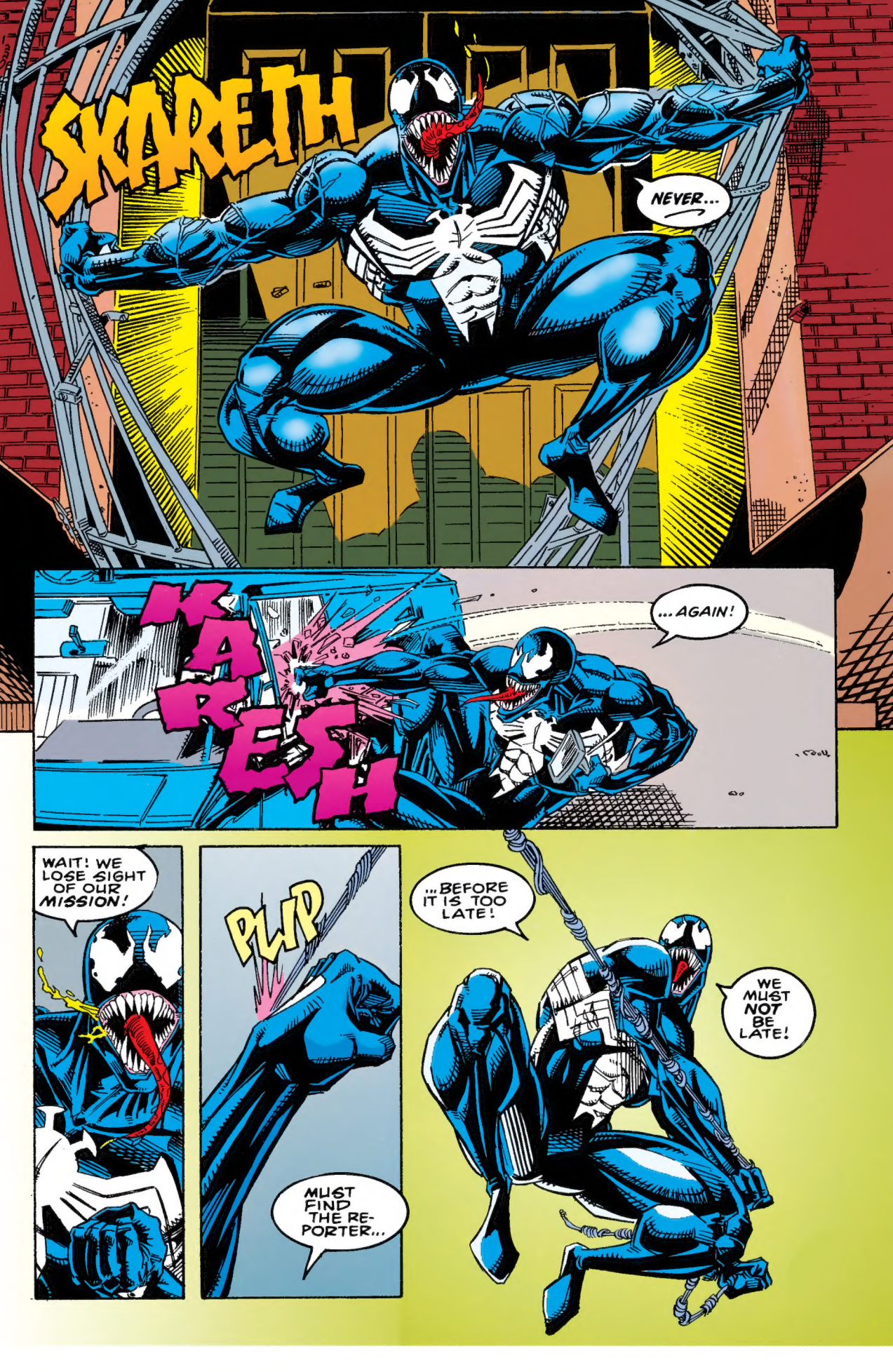

PUNISHER WILL... PAY, IF WE CAN... EVER GET... OUT... OF HERE...


HE LEFT US TO FRY!


DELAY US FROM... OUR MISSION!
VENOM... MUST SAVE... THE INNOCENT... MUST SAVE... OUR FELLOW JOURNALIST!
TOO... WEAK... PAIN... TOO GREAT. CAN'T... CONCENTRATE TO... BREAK BARS!
SYMBIOTE... TRIES TO... ESCAPE... BUT, WE ARE BOUND...


WAIT! A CHANCE..!
HAVE TO... CONCENTRATE!
EXTEND AND... GUIDE TENDRIL.
HUNGHH!
MUST... CONCEN-TRATE!
BUT... THE PAIN!
THERE! WITHIN... REACH...
OAKLAND
SEWER
PUBLIC WORKS

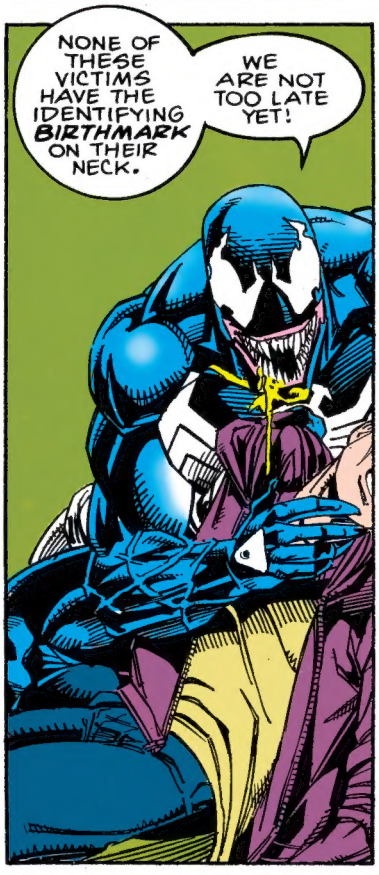
"... AT... THE SOURCE...
"... MUST BE... THIN AS A... HAIR.
"... AVOID... DEFENSE... SENSORS UNTIL... INSIDE!"
RAKCH
KARASH
PAIN... IT'S STOPPED!
MAKE SURE VAN... CANNOT HURT US... AGAIN!

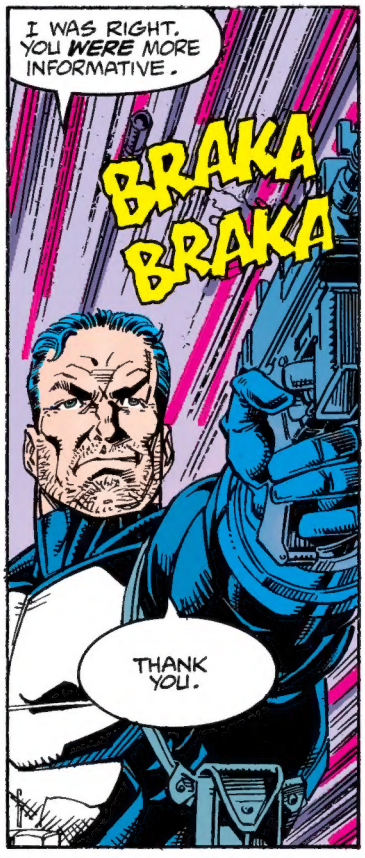

SKARETH
NEVER...
KA REEH
...AGAIN!
WAIT! WE LOSE SIGHT OF OUR MISSION!
PLIP
MUST FIND THE RE-PORTER...
...BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
WE MUST NOT BE LATE!

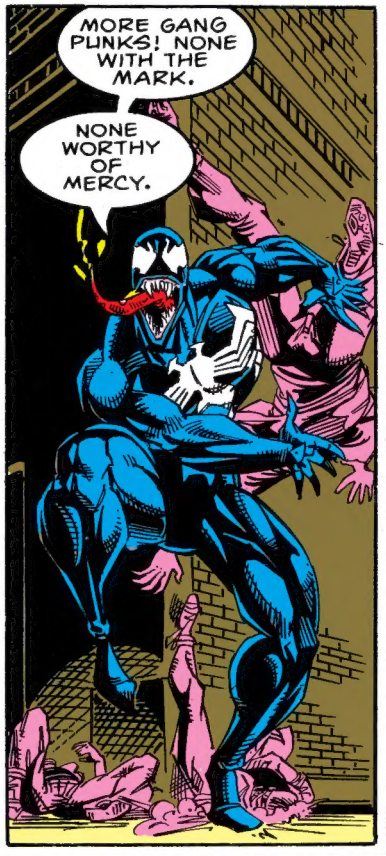
ELSE-WHERE...
WHERE IS THE HEAD-QUARTERS FOR YOUR GANG?
UNGH, KUNGH, HULDTH GRITH.
TRY IT AGAIN. THIS TIME INTELLI-GIBLY.

BLOCKS AWAY.
WHAT IS THAT?!
DUNNO--BUT IT AIN'T OUR COLORS! BLAST 'IM!

PERHAPS YOUR FRIEND HERE WILL BE MORE INFORMATIVE.
GEEZ! YOU DONE DIEGO! I'M GONNA BLOW YOU 'WAY!


NONE OF THESE VICTIMS HAVE THE IDENTIFYING BIRTHMARK ON THEIR NECK.
WE ARE NOT TOO LATE YET!


I WAS RIGHT. YOU WERE MORE INFORMATIVE.
BRAKA BRAKA
THANK YOU.


MORE GANG PUNKS! NONE WITH THE MARK.
NONE WORTHY OF MERCY.

YOU TRYIN' MY PATIENCE, GRAY?
YOU LET THOSE TARGETS GET AWAY!
YOU GONNA GET A HEAD FULL O' LEAD UNLESS YOU SQUEEZE A BURST ON THIS NEXT CREW!
AIN'T NO BIG THING, GRAY. THEY BE KILLIN' US 'FWE DON'T DEAD 'EM FIRST!
NO CHOICE! JUST CLOSE MY EYES AND SQUEEZE!
LOOK OUT!
KROOM

THAKA-THAKA-THAKA
YESSS!
GEEZ!

AWRIGHT, GEE -- YA DID IT!
NOW THAT WE'RE ALL JADOO-- LET'S GO FINISH THIS WAR!
GOD! THEY WANT ME TO KILL MORE!
WILL IT NEVER END...?!
"... HOW WILL I END?!"
SCREECH

BRAKA BRAKA BRAKA
BLAM BLAM BLAM
Closer I get to their warehouse HQ...
...the more there are.
JADOOS DON'T GIVE UP THEIR OWN.
KABLAM
BIG MISTAKE.
WE ARE LOOKING FOR ONE OF YOUR COLORS.
HE HAS A LARGE BIRTHMARK ON HIS NECK.
POIT POIT
LET US TEACH YOU THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS!
WE WILL REACH DEEP INSIDE...
...AND PULL OUT THE ROTTEN CORE!
SCAPULCH
I'LL TALK! I'LL TALK!
HIS NAME'S GRAY! HE'S AT THE WARE HOUSE AT...

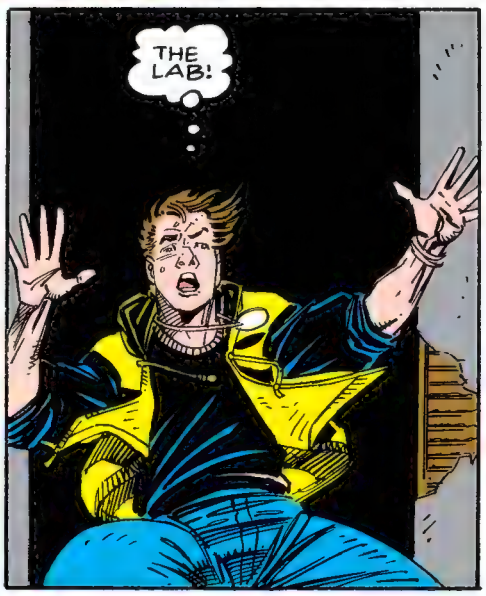
FORTY-FIVE SECONDS LATER...
RUN, LITTLE PUNK. THAT INFORMATION HAS BOUGHT YOU LIFE.
FOR THE MOMENT.
BRAKA BRAKA
They're everywhere.
Colors from at least three different crews.
THE PUNISHER AGAIN!
NO TIME TO KILL HIM NOW.
PERHAPS -- IF THE COMMOTION HE'S GENERATING WILL DRAW ATTENTION AWAY FROM US, PROGRESS WILL BE FASTER.

Plowing through the magazines.
Lead well spent.
PUNISHER DOESN'T SEE THE THREAT FROM BEHIND.
WE MAY REGRET THIS!
FWAAMP
DIE!
WHA--?
KABLAM
Venom symbiote shielded me from the twelve-gauge.
At that range, Kevlar wouldn't have helped much.

BRAKABRAKA
One less menace to society.
About to find out what's up with another.
PUNISHER...
...YOU OWE US!
THE ONE WE SEEK -- HIS NAME IS GRAY. HE HAS A LARGE BIRTHMARK ON HIS NECK.
YOU ARE NOT TO TOUCH HIM OR HURT HIM IN ANY WAY...
IS THAT CLEAR?
!$%^&e#
GOOD.

JABBER
HOME TURF!
SCREECH
WHUSSUP ?!!
HOT AND HEAVY ON THE NORTH END.
LET'S GO!
GOT TO SLIP AWAY.

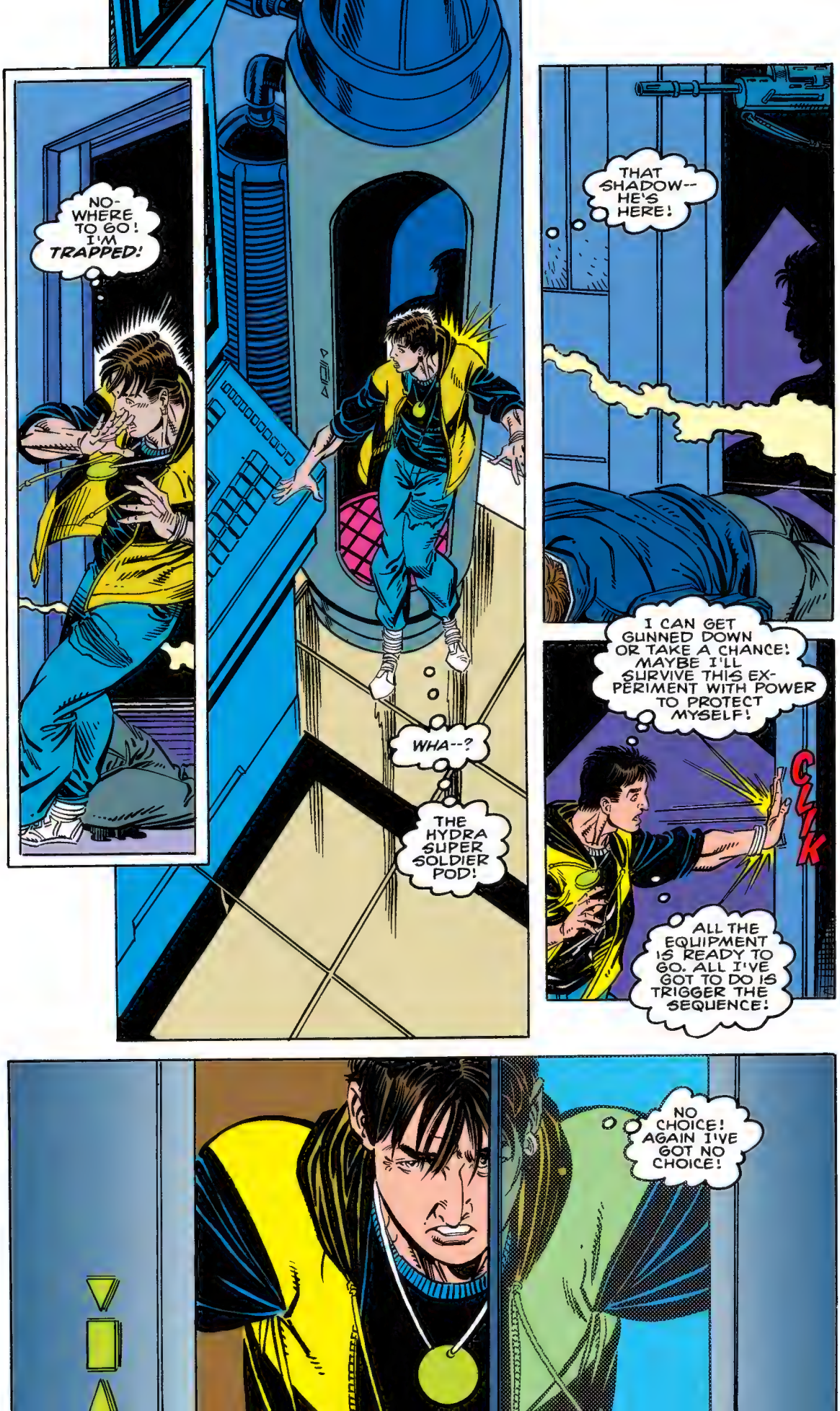
YEAH!
I'LL HIDE SO DEEP IN THE WAREHOUSE THAT NO ONE'LL FIND ME!

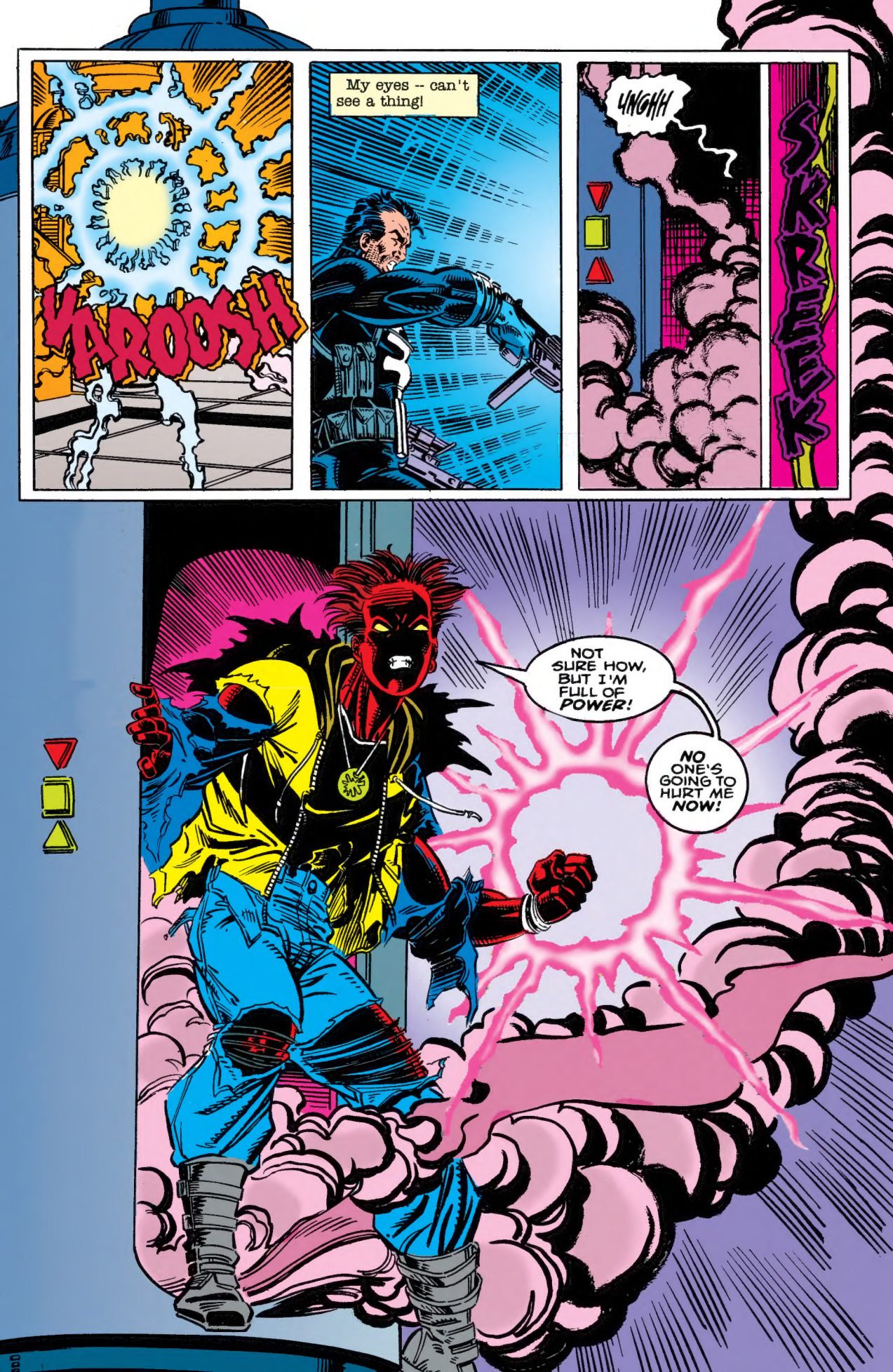

THE LAB!

I WISH I'D NEVER HEARD OF HYDRA! NEVER HEARD OF THIS LAB!
DAD AND HIS #$%# SUPER SOLDIER PROJECT..!
NEVER WOULD HAVE KILLED, NEVER WOULD'VE GOTTEN IN THIS FIX IF I'D NEVER KNOWN!
HOW MANY OF THESE PUNKS CAN THERE BE?!
ANOTHER ONE WITH NO BIRTHMARK AND A BAD ATTITUDE GIVEN HIS REWARD.
Hmm... WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

THIS ONE MAY FIT THE DE-SCRIPTION!
HELP!
NO! YOU ARE NOT THE INNOCENT!
YOU ARE OF NO USE TO US!
AAAAAAH!
KABLAM KABLAM
KRESH
The warehouse HQ, at last.
Have I taken most of them out or are things about to get really hot?

KATHOM BRAKA BRAKA
THE FIGHTING'S HEADED THIS WAY!
FOR WHAT I DID, MAYBE I DESERVE TO DIE!
NO! IT'S NOT MY FAULT! I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE RESCUED!
I SAVED THAT KID -- BUT NO ONE CAME TO SAVE ME!
FOOTSTEPS RIGHT OUTSIDE!
GRAY -- IT'S THE PUNISHER! HE'S AFTER US! YOU GOTTA -- ARGH!
BRAKA BRAKA
LORD! HE'S COMING DOWN THE HALL!
TAK TAK TAK


NO-WHERE TO GO! I'M TRAPPED!
WHA--?
THE HYDRA SUPER SOLDIER POD!
THAT SHADOW-- HE'S HERE!
I CAN GET GUNNED DOWN OR TAKE A CHANCE! MAYBE I'LL SURVIVE THIS EXPERIMENT WITH POWER TO PROTECT MYSELF!
CLIK
ALL THE EQUIPMENT IS READY TO GO. ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS TRIGGER THE SEQUENCE!
NO CHOICE! AGAIN I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!


KAROOSH
My eyes -- can't see a thing!
UNGHH
SKREEK
NOT SURE HOW, BUT I'M FULL OF POWER!
NO ONE'S GOING TO HURT ME NOW!

YOU! YOU KILLED RICO!
YOU WANTED TO KILL ME!
Eyes not cleared yet!
What am I dealing with here?!?
YOU WON'T KILL ANYONE ELSE AGAIN!
KAZAP
WOW! I CAN PROJECT THE POWER...
...BUT MY AIM ISN'T SO SHARP!
BLASTS ARE CLOSE ENOUGH TO MAKE METAL TOO HOT TO HANDLE.
HUNGH!

Ah-- ANOTHER SLAB TO FRY!
WHAT THE -- GRAY-- THAT YOU, MAN?
KAZAP
AIEEEE!
YES. THE SAME JERK YOU HELPED FORCE INTO SLAUGHTEROUS WAYS.
LET ME SHOW YOU WHAT I LEARNED!
MY AIM'S GETTING BETTER!
Stars are finally fading but I still don't know what the @#$% is going on!
He turned that kid into toast.

WE ARE HERE AT LAST!
STAND AWAY, PUNISHER--
--THAT BIRTHMARK MEANS WE'VE FOUND THE ONE UNDER OUR PROTECTION.
WE WERE NOT TOO LATE TO SAVE HIM!
SAVE ME? YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO RESCUE ME?!
WHERE THE @#!? WERE YOU!?
I WAS FORCED TO KILL BECAUSE YOU TOOK TOO LONG!
TZAK
NO!
ARRGH! MICROWAVES! FEELS LIKE WE ARE BURNING UP!
YOU ARE! THINK OF IT AS YOUR FUNERAL PYRE!
BUT... WE CAME TO... SAVE YOU!
IN THIRTY DAYS:
THE CONCLUSION
(cooked to perfection, of course!)